

Prison Build Program builds partnerships



Jim Dodge, Parnall horticulture instructor, helps Shelly Hill, the first homeowner to utilize the MSHDA Key to Own program, select landscaping plants.

The MDOC Prison Build Program is again partnering with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to help provide low-cost housing for families in need.

A new MSHDA program called the “Key to Own Homeownership Program” funded a home that was recently completed in Jackson. Participating in the project, along with the DOC Prison Build Program, were the Jackson Affordable Housing Corporation, the City of Jackson and Jackson Habitat for Humanity.

Eligible low-income families holding a MSHDA Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) can take part in the new plan which offers a homeownership option for families. Qualified tenants are able to use their voucher subsidy toward a mortgage on a home rather than toward their rent, helping families realize the dream of homeownership.

The DOC Prison Build Program supplied landscaping trees and shrubs to the family to give their home a finishing touch. Inmates in the Prison Build Program at the Thumb Correctional Facility built the garage walls for the home under the tutelage of Jeff Fagan, Thumb’s building trades instructor.

All the horticulture products for the new home came out of the Prison Build Program’s new Distribution Center at Parnall Correctional Facility. Horticulture products are produced at 12 facilities across the state and are shipped to Parnall for distribution.

“We revamped the nursery here at Parnall and helped develop a product list for the new homeowners. They can choose a landscaping package that contains deciduous trees, shrubs, conifers and ground

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covers for around the house,” said Jim Dodge, Parnall Correctional Facility horticulture instructor.

The homeowners select their package and pick up plants at the facility.

“This is an excellent program and we’re pleased that Parnall has been selected as the distribution point,” said Warden Harold White. “The program teaches our prisoners a trade while providing a service to the community.”

The Prison Build Program currently partners with MSHDA on Habitat homes but the Key to Own program is new.

“Prison build was selected to be a part of MSHDA’s Key to Own Homeownership Program because of our successful partnership on the Habitat homes,” said Michael Green, Prison Build Administrator. “They were looking for additional options in which the Prison Build Program could provide housing components and landscaping for low-income housing and we were thrilled to be asked to participate in this innovative program.”

“We’re working to build partnerships across the state,” Green continued. “These partnerships are the key to

reaching the goal outlined in the Governor’s five-year plan.”

That five-year plan provides much-needed housing while revitalizing urban areas by razing abandoned buildings and building adequate housing

for low-income families in those areas.

A second partnership between the Family Independence Agency (FIA) and the Department of Corrections stemmed from a plan to support the Governor’s initiative to assist in building communities that have targeted failing schools.

FIA staff person Ann Marie Simon explained the need for beds for foster children to DOC staff. Deputy Director Dennis Straub took the lead and suggested to Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Blaine Lafler that Jack Adam, construction team leader, and the inmates at Saginaw build the hundred plus beds for the children.

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Homeowner Shelly Hill and Lisa Lehman from MSHDA delivered plantings to the new house.



Deciduous trees from the DOC horticulture program.



RPA Barbara Bock and Deputy Director Dennis Straub attended the house warming in Jackson.



Bunk beds for foster children built by inmates in the Prison Build Program at Saginaw Correctional Facility.

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The inmates in the Saginaw Prison Build Program built 37 bunk beds and 74 twin beds for the foster children. The beds were individually cut, sanded and formed together for ease of use and safety.

“This is an outstanding program. We have an excellent trade program with talented staff at Saginaw and they were able to work with our prisoners and deliver the beds in a matter of weeks,” said Warden Lafler.

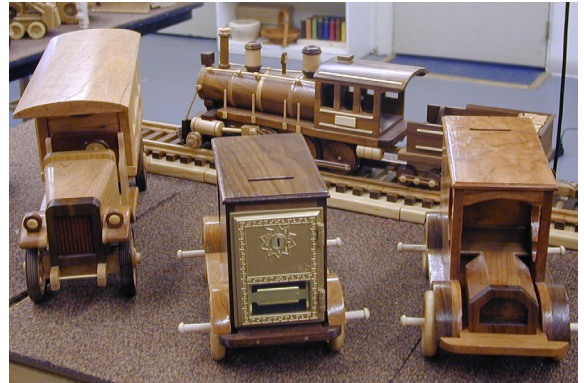
The Prison Build Program has been assisting with Habitat for Humanity built homes since 1999. To raise funds for the Habitat program, inmates at the Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility designed and built an assortment of hand made toys that were auctioned at the Habitat for Humanity of Michigan annual banquet in April. Proceeds from the auction totaled \$4,000 which will assist with tools and material for future Habitat builds. Most of the materials for the toys came from scrap and donated lumber.

The Prison Build Program also donated some of the hand-crafted toys to the Children’s Trust Fund raising \$735 for that children's program.

The mission of the Prison Build Program is to assist Habitat for Humanity, local units of government and non-profit organizations in providing housing and related products for low-income families through the use of inmate labor. The Prison Build Program will assist in building 250 Michigan Habitat homes in conjunction with former President Jimmy Carter’s Work Project 2005.

The Prison Build Program educates and provides hands-on training to inmates in the building trades and horticulture industries. The inmates construct walls, cabinets, trim and other housing components; build entire homes; design and create interior products; and devise landscape plans and provide the needed horticulture products.

Inmates are linked to employers to find jobs and to aftercare programs to assist them in their re-integration after release from prison. [f.y.i.](#)



MSI open house today



Michigan State Industries (MSI) is hosting its third annual open house on June 10 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the MSI showroom and see the latest in panel systems furniture, elegant wood furniture, ergonomic-style seating, clothing and a large selection of high quality, manufactured products. The office is located at 5656 S. Cedar in Lansing. For more information contact MSI at (517) 241-5400. [f.y.i.](#)

Vision and Values update

Each State of Michigan Department Director was asked by Governor Jennifer Granholm to identify an Organizational Development Officer (ODO). This individual would serve as the agency liaison with the Office of the Great Workplace Development in an effort to carry out Governor Granholm's goal of making Michigan a great place to work, live and raise a family. The ODOs will help to accomplish this goal by ensuring that the Vision and Values message continues to be heard throughout State government.

Director Patricia Caruso designated Deputy Director Barry McLemore as the ODO for the Department of Corrections.

"Deputy Director McLemore was given this assignment because of his history of commitment to leadership and excellence in the workplace," Director Caruso said.

DD McLemore has attended monthly meetings directed by the Office of the Great Workplace Development and attended by First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern. Some of the MDOC/ODO Vision and Values projects include:

- Letters of appreciation to the facilitators of the Vision and Values training
- Recognition of employees identified as living our shared Vision and Values
- Providing pictures and comments about those employees and displaying them on the state's photo gallery
- Developing an action plan to broaden the State of Michigan's Vision and Values throughout the MDOC

Director Caruso's commitment to the Governor's Vision and Values is unwavering.

"We want all MDOC employees to experience *Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence and Inclusion* in all aspects of their employment," Director Caruso said. "We are calling on each individual to do their part to achieve this department-wide goal." [7.11.1](#)

Corrections Center residents help prepare Michigan's first Urban State Park



Over the past month, prisoners from the Woodward Corrections Center have assisted in preparing for the unveiling of Tri-Centennial Park, Michigan's first Urban State Park. The park is nestled on 31 acres of river front on the banks of the Detroit River in downtown Detroit. The grounds are a showcase of flowers and ornamental trees. The park includes a marina and 63-foot-tall working lighthouse. [7.11.1](#)

Michigan's 97th state park, Tri-centennial State Park and Harbor, is located on Detroit's riverfront near the intersection of Chene and Atwater.

DOC employees roll up their sleeves



FOA Agent Shaft Sanders is ready to give to blood.



Donors from left: Amanda Frederick, Ordinance Unit Secretary in Jackson, Tim Watson, Central Office FOA and Pat Brubaker (volunteer worker and donor), Central Office FOA.

Region I – FOA sponsored an American Red Cross blood drive on May 8. The drive was held at the Court Services, Special Services, and Chrysler District Offices. Twenty-four people registered to donate and 17 were first-time blood donors. According to the Red Cross, one pint of donated blood could save up to three lives. Probation Agent Torra Abram organized the drive. *F.Y.I.*

Fifty-five staff members showed up for the May 18 Central Office blood drive in Lansing. Held at DeMarse Academy gymnasium, the Red Cross collected 42 productive pints. Among those donating were 13 first-time donors.

“We had 60 people signed up to give blood. That’s the maximum that the Red Cross would allow for the amount of staff they had available,” said Director Caruso. “DOC staff always step up to the plate when it comes to assisting in their community. I want to thank them for their support of this important cause.” *F.Y.I.*

Join the Swine Ride for Special Olympics



ou can join the Swine Ride, a law enforcement guided motorcycle ride on Saturday, June 19. The ride is held annually to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a group of police officers and corrections personnel committed to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics

Michigan.

Proceeds from the Swine Ride support the year-round sports training and athletic competition for the 12,400 children and adults with mental retardation who participate in Special Olympics Michigan.

The cost is \$50 for a single rider and \$60 for double rider. Dinner and entertainment are available for \$20 per person.

Registration includes an official swine ride tee-shirt, a meal and music from Who Dat Blues Band. The ride includes six start locations with the finish at Maggie’s Sports Bar, 16800 Chandler Road in East Lansing.

Proceeds from the ride go to Special Olympics Michigan. Register online at www.somi.org/swineride by June 4. For more information call (800) 644-6404. *F.Y.I.*



Training program assessment means college credits for MDOC employees by John Cordell

Excelsior College, a non-profit institution of higher learning in Albany, NY, recently completed an assessment of MDOC training programs to determine their value as college credit. The assessment resulted in a total of 38 undergraduate and graduate-level credits that may be granted toward completion of a college degree. This assessment may be of benefit to department employees who wish to pursue a college degree.

Excelsior specializes in assisting professionals in the criminal justice field who want to continue their education. Whether it is the attainment of a degree through Excelsior, or the ability to consolidate credits from several colleges on one transcript, they can help.

Excelsior College provides flexibility for the use and transfer of college credits. Here are some ways that you can use the program to your advantage:

Credit recommendations made by assessment teams can be used by:

- A college or university
- Excelsior College's "Credit Bank"
- Excelsior College's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice or other Excelsior degree



*John Cordell, Curriculum Specialist,
Office of Training
and Recruitment*

Colleges and Universities

In many cases, educational institutions "attached" to training providers carry credits that are only accepted in block format, and are useful only at that institution. The advantages to Excelsior College's credit recommendations are that credit will be assigned on an individual course basis and one does not have to enroll at Excelsior to transfer the course credits to an institution. Acceptance of academic credit in transfer from an academy or another college is *always* at the discretion of the receiving institution.

Credit Bank

This service was designed for non-Excelsior College students who want to consolidate their academic records for employment or educational purposes. It enables a student to record and report accumulated college credit from numerous and/or various sources onto a single document. Having all college credits on a single Excelsior College transcript – with scores on most proficiency examinations taken on or after September 1, 1995, converted to letter grades – means fewer documents to handle and file. A Credit Bank transcript also makes it easier for employers or other colleges to recognize the credit you have already earned. Upon request, all credits recommended by Criminal Justice Training Assessment will be available through Credit Bank on an Excelsior College transcript.

Excelsior College's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

A major in Criminal Justice incorporates the theories, history, and legal and ethical issues typically covered in the study of crime and criminal justice. Because a number of perspectives and related disciplines exist within the field of criminal justice, one is encouraged to develop depth, breadth, and understanding in one of four areas of emphasis:

- Administration of Criminal Justice

continued

Training program assessment

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- Corrections
- Law Enforcement and Public Safety
- Law and Society

Excelsior College allows you to use any training that you completed within the past five years toward your degree (providing it falls under the programs that have been assessed). When you apply to Excelsior College, they will assess your training credits from the past five years and determine how many credits **you already have** toward your degree. All you must do to complete your degree is fill in the missing courses through Excelsior or one of the many other colleges or universities that have a Distance Learning partnership with them.

The complete Credit Recommendation Report by Excelsior College is available through the MDOC Online Training Icon in the NAL window. For more information about Excelsior College, please visit www.excelsior.edu. *7.4.2*

The reception and guidance process now on video

With the help of the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, the Office of Training and Recruitment has developed a video summary of the MDOC intake process. This 12-minute video observes the process from initial intake through transfer to an assigned correctional facility.

Team members from the facility describe different aspects of the reception process. Egeler Facility Warden Nick Ludwick provides narration during the video.

To view the video, click on the *OnLine Training* icon in your NAL window. When the page opens, click on the *Reception and Guidance Center Process* icon to start the video.

"The Office of Training and Recruitment, in coordination with Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, is pleased to share this production with MDOC team members," said Bill Hudson, Office of Training and Recruitment Administrator. "Special thanks go to Warden Ludwick, the Egeler team, Rick Emery, Joe Lemke, John Cordell and Rebekah Bemister for their assistance with development and distribution of this program."

For more information on development of MDOC related videos, please contact the Office of Training and Recruitment.

Grand Rapids Corrections Center hits stride



Ron Jimmerson, Cascade Engineering teaches the Hidden Rules of Employment class at Grand Rapids Corrections Center.

The Grand Rapids Corrections Center (YGR) is experiencing so much success with its programming that the Center is working to squeeze as much as possible into their Grand Rapids space. Supervisor Jeff VanderGalien and Program Manager Glenn Gomery have been working with the community and staff at the Corrections Center to provide a wide variety of classes.

The Corrections Center holds separate men's and women's narcotics and alcoholics anonymous meetings several times during the week. Three days a week, the 12-week-long Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) session is underway. CBT is a program that promotes changes in behavior through changes in thinking. The therapy includes an intensive five-day motivational enhancement.

In addition, GED classes are conducted by Grand Rapids Public Schools one night a week. Bible study and worship services are also

offered throughout the week. Pre-employment classes are conducted once a week by a volunteer recruiter. Usually he can be found enlisting executives for local businesses but he volunteers his time at the Grand Rapids Corrections Center in an effort to help participants lead more successful lives.

The Center also offers Thursday night at the movies. On this evening, volunteers from the Catholic Diocese bring in movies that reflect social issues of the day and following the movie, lead the residents in discussion. The sessions are well attended and are actually offered for the most problematic residents at the Center. This is an opportunity to provide talking points on social and behavior issues while providing time for the residents to leave their rooms and interact in a more socially appropriate manner.

One evening a week the Salvation Army provides a counselor for those who would like to talk about personal or other issues. This is an opportunity for them to speak with an "outsider" who may appear less threatening to them.

"I am very proud of the cooperative spirit exhibited at the Grand Rapids Corrections Center. We work closely with local agencies to provide these services," said Grand Rapids Area Manager James Tomaszewski.

The Parole Office is an active participant in these center activities since 80 of the 130 residents at the Center are parolees.

"We are in the re-integration business and we need to provide the tools and opportunities for our clients to be successful. Corrections Center and parole agents need as many resources (mental health, substance abuse, education, employment, etc.) as possible in order to assist and guide clients through the re-entry process. Having so much programming at the Center is the responsible thing to do. The Center has excellent staff and facilities which lend itself to these endeavors," added Tomaszewski.

In addition, much of the programming provided at the Center comes from volunteers, including the employment specialists from Bramble and Associates and Cascade Engineering.

"Our most recent program, adapted from the *Standish Interactive Learning Collaborative*, recruits interns and volunteers from Grand Valley State University's Criminal Justice Program to develop and facilitate Life Skills Classes to prisoners and parolees utilizing existing curriculums, outside speakers and videos. In addition, they are assigned offenders to mentor through the job and parole placement search process," said Supervisor VanderGalien.

"The Center has come a long way from the traditional service of providing a bed and allowing offenders to go out for employment purposes and then return for the night. The Center is now looked upon as a full-service facility attempting to meet the various needs of people reintegrating to the community. The Center is working closely with the Parole Office which has 1,300 parolees under supervision and who, at one time or another, may need services which can be provided at the Center. We have to be thinking in a much larger sense in order to be of service to our clientele as we move this population back into the community," said Tomaszewski. *J.Y.J.*

Budget update— House restores some Senate budget cuts

The Michigan House of Representatives, yesterday, passed budget recommendations made by the House Appropriations Committee partially restoring cuts made by the Senate earlier this year.

- \$2.5 million of the Senate's cut to academic/vocational program funding was restored.
- A partial restoration of Hepatitis-C testing and treatment funding brings back \$1,149,900 to the program.
- \$5 million in substance abuse testing and treatment funding was reinstated.

The House version is \$12 million general fund/general purpose less than the budget passed by the Senate. However, the reduction is due to a fiscal-year-end split-pay accounting change for the two weeks of work that straddle FY 2005 and FY 2006 and a retirement actuarial change which saves an additional \$6.1 million.

The bill now goes back to the Senate for concurrence. If the Senate concurs, the bill will go to the Governor.

If the bill is rejected by the Senate, it goes to a Conference Committee which is made up of three members from each chamber. The Conference Committee then resolves any points of difference between the House and Senate.

The Conference Committee report will go to the Senate and, if it is adopted, the report and the bill go to the House. If the House approves the report, the bill goes to the Governor's desk for her signature. At that time, she signs the bill into law or she may veto individual line items.

Remember, this is just one more step in the complicated budget process. Watch for **FYJ** budget updates as they develop. **F.Y.J.**